

# CHAMBLEE Signal

MARCH-APRIL 2016  
VOLUME 17 • NO. 2

Official Newsletter of Chamblee, Georgia

[chambleega.gov](http://chambleega.gov)

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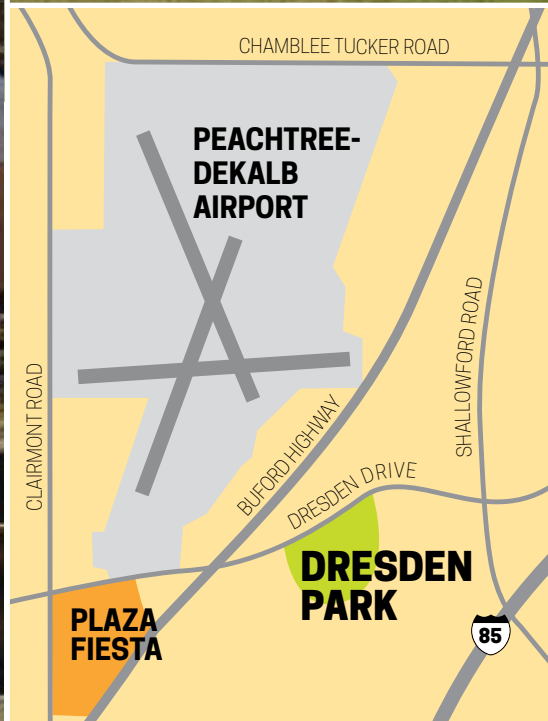
## Chamblee Acquires Dresden Park

**O**n Thursday, Feb. 4, DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to transfer Dresden Park to the City of Chamblee. The DeKalb County Commission approved the IGA in December 2015. The agreement transfers the 25 acre park to Chamblee at no cost.

Dresden Park is located in the southeast area of Chamblee, which was annexed into the City in 2013. The City has been negotiating the transfer with the county since the annexation.

The City awarded a contract for the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan late last year to guide decision-making in the areas of park operations, maintenance, and capital improvements over the next 10 years. The transfer of Dresden Park to the City was contemplated and it is included in the scope of the master plan.

*More photos and Parks and Recreation Master Plan news on page 10*



## Robson Receives Certificate of Distinction

In January, Chamblee councilmember Leslie Robson received the Certificate of Distinction from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute at the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) annual Mayors' Day Conference in Atlanta.

The training institute, a cooperative effort of GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provides a nationally recognized series of training opportunities for elected city officials. To receive a Certificate of Distinction a city official must complete a minimum of 204 units of credit, including at least 72 hours from the required list and the Robert E. Knox Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute. The training program consists of a series of more than 50 courses.

The Certificate of Distinction is the highest level of training certification the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute offers. Robson was one of 15 city officials to receive the certificate at the conference.

"This is an outstanding achievement," said GMA Executive Director Lamar Norton. "We commend council member Robson for this accomplishment and for the dedication she's shown in using this valuable resource to become a more effective city official."

GMA, a voluntary nonprofit organization based in Atlanta, provides legislative advocacy, research, training, employee benefit, and technical consulting services to more than 500 member cities.



## Recycling Update: No Glass

Beginning in March, please place your glass in with your household garbage, not with recyclables. Please do not mix glass in with your recyclables. It is no longer accepted as a recyclable item.

Things you should know:

- The market for glass is almost nonexistent and the cost to handle glass is almost 30 times greater than revenue earned.
- Glass is not harmful to the environment since it crushes back to sand from which it is made. Since glass is basically sand it takes up very little volume in the landfill.

Thank you for your support in this change.



City of Chamblee  
5468 Peachtree Rd.  
Chamblee, GA 30341

770-986-5010  
Fax: 770-986-5014  
chambleega.gov

### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor ..... R. Eric Clarkson  
District 1 ..... John Mesa  
District 2 ..... Leslie C. Robson  
District 3 ..... Thomas S. Hogan II  
At-large ..... Darron Kusman  
At-large ..... Brian Mock

### CITY STAFF

City Manager ..... Marc Johnson  
Chief of Police ..... Donny Williams  
City Clerk ..... Emmie Niethammer  
Economic Development ..... Adam Causey  
Finance Director ..... Travis Sims  
Parks & Recreation ..... Chris Madden  
Public Works ..... Reginald Anderson

### CONTACT INFORMATION

City Hall ..... 770-986-5010  
Public Works/  
Animal Control ..... 770-986-5019  
Development ..... 770-986-5024  
Parks & Recreation ..... 770-986-5016  
Police Department ..... 770-986-5005  
Municipal Court ..... 770-986-5004  
Code Enforcement ..... 770-986-5005  
code\_enforcement@chambleega.gov  
Police Emergency ..... 911

*The Signal* is the official publication of the City of Chamblee. It provides the citizens of Chamblee with timely information on events, activities and news related to the city.

**GOT NEWS?** Send press releases, announcements and other materials for consideration to [thesignal@chambleega.gov](mailto:thesignal@chambleega.gov). All material provided is subject to editing.



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## A Message from Public Works About Paving

**B**eginning in January, Chamblee assumed responsibility for road maintenance and traffic engineering – services that were previously provided by DeKalb County. You can submit pothole repair requests to the Chamblee Public Works Department through the Chamblee Connect app, the city website ([chambleega.gov](http://chambleega.gov)), or by calling the department, 770-986-5019.



## Spring Break Camp April 4-8

**Keep your youngsters engaged during the school's weeklong break**

### Camp Chamblee ■ 6-12 yrs

Sports, games, arts and crafts, and a variety of other activities. Camp is held in the Community Building in Keswick Park and campers have all the amenities of the park available throughout the week.

#### Camp Hours

Drop off: 7:30-9 a.m.

Scheduled activities: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pick up: 3:30-6 p.m.

Fees: \$75 for residents, \$100 for nonresidents. Parents will be charged \$5 for each 15 minutes they are late picking up their child starting at 6:01 p.m. Space is limited to 30 campers for spring break and reservations must be made in advance. Reserve a spot for \$20. For more information, call Parks and Recreation, 770-986-5016.

### Jon Akin Soccer Camp 6-15 yrs

This half-day camp, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., is provided by the Oglethorpe University men's coaching staff and Oglethorpe University college players. [jonakincamps.com/springbreakcamp](http://jonakincamps.com/springbreakcamp)



## Johnson Joins Architectural Review Board

**M**artin Johnson has joined the Chamblee Architectural Design Review Board (ARB), filling the seat vacated by Darron Kusman, who was recently elected to the City Council. The ARB is responsible for hearing and reviewing the exterior architectural design for all planned unit developments and development of community impact applications. Johnson participated in his first ARB meeting in February.



## City Council Update



From left: Leslie Robson, Darron Kusman, and Tom Hogan take the oath of office.

In the January City Council work session, Chamblee City Attorney Joe Fowler swore in council member Thomas Hogan representing District 3, council member Leslie Robson representing District 2, and council member Darron Kusman representing the city at large.

Council members Hogan and Robson were re-elected to their seats last November and their terms expire in 2019. Council member Kusman was first elected last November and his term also expires in 2019.

The mayor and city council determine the city's policies and enact local laws. They are responsible for the adoption of an annual budget and the levying of taxes necessary to finance local government operations. They appoint the city manager, Municipal Court judges, the city solicitor and city attorney, and the building inspectors.

The December City Council meeting was the last one for former Mayor Pro Tem Dan Zanger. The council thanked him for his years of service and presented him with a plaque.

In the January council meeting the members unanimously selected at-large Council Member Brian Mock as mayor pro tem. Mock began his term on the Chamblee City Council in 2014. As mayor pro tem, he will serve in the position of mayor should Mayor Clarkson be unable to preside at a meeting.

## Q&A with Darron Kusman

### What sparked your interest in serving on the Chamblee City Council?

About three years ago I was asked to serve on the Architectural Review Board and over time I have gotten progressively more involved. Over the years a number of friends and neighbors have asked me to run and I felt it was the right time to give our citizens a choice. Chamblee is the best kept secret in all of metro Atlanta but I think there is still much to be desired. I am excited to continue to listen, learn, and be a part of the solution.

### Tell us about any previous experience in public service.

I served as Chairman of the Chamblee Architectural Review Board for the past three years and currently serve on the Governing Board of Chamblee Charter High School. These experiences have been very rewarding both personally and professionally. I have also volunteered for a number of non-profits and youth development programs.

### Please share your professional experience and other boards and committees on which you serve

Some people would probably tell you I'm one of those boring numbers people. I am a CPA and spend my days working as Director of Finance for Church's Chicken. We have about 1650 restaurants in over 25 countries which is more than enough to keep me busy! In addition, my wife and I run a small real estate investment firm focused on strategic investments throughout metro-Atlanta. In a prior life I worked for a master planned community developer where we were able to incorporate nine parks, 17 miles of pedestrian and cycling trails, a 15-acre man-made lake, a splash park, and miniature golf course in a town about two-thirds the size of Chamblee.



# Youth Sports Return

## Youth Soccer ■ 4-11 yrs

### Resident Fees

(U6) - \$60

(U8) - \$65

(U10) - \$70

(U12) - \$85

### Nonresident Fees

(U6) - \$90

(U8) - \$95

(U10) - \$100

(U12) - \$115

Fee includes uniform (shorts, socks, and jersey) and participation trophy.

## Baseball and T-ball ■ 3-8 yrs

Resident Fee - \$60, Non-resident - \$90

Fee includes uniform (hat, jersey, and pants) and participation trophy.

## Youth Coaches Are Still Needed!

Each head coach will receive one free youth registration. Contact Chris Madden at [cmadden@chambleega.gov](mailto:cmadden@chambleega.gov) or 470-395-2343 for more information.



# Kudos for Officer Jackson

**O**fficer Ralph Jackson earned recognition as Chamblee Police Department's Officer of the Quarter for his performance during the last three months of 2015.

Sergeant Mike Pearson recommended Jackson for the award. An excerpt from his letter of recommendation reads:

"Officer Jackson is one of the officers that is truly missed when not working. He is the 'go to' officer when someone is uncooperative with an officer. He has assisted several officers on the team by using his communication skills to calm combative and hostile people. I have personally witnessed Officer Jackson take unruly people to the side and get them to cooperate with officers within minutes. He has a unique way in dealing with all people, regardless of their nationality or race. He also uses his communications skill to obtain and gain information about suspected criminal activity.

"Officer Jackson's daily dedication to duty, vigilance, and professionalism sets him apart from his peers and makes him the most qualified to receive the prestigious honor of Chamblee Police Department's Officer of the Quarter."



## 911 Communications

### What's Your Emergency?

Chamblee's 911 Communications Center receives, classifies, and prioritizes calls from the public and dispatches the calls that require a police response. Fire and emergency medical services are provided by DeKalb County Fire and Rescue. Any calls received for these services are transferred to the DeKalb County 911 Center, which dispatches for them.

Communication officers monitor and log all activity by Chamblee police officers. They are responsible for entering wanted/missing persons and stolen property into the state and national computer systems, running computer queries for officers, and responding to requests from other law enforcement agencies regarding wanted persons and stolen property. Communication officers work 12-hour shifts.

The Communications Center operates an enhanced 911 Public Safety Answering Point. They answer all 911 and other emergency calls made from, within, or to the city of Chamblee. The Positron 911 equipment used in the center is Wireless Phase II compliant, which means that in addition to being able to receive a mobile phone caller's phone number, it is also able to receive the approximate X, Y (longitude, latitude) location of the handset making the call. This approximate location is then automatically plotted in a computerized mapping system. Language barriers are overcome using a language line service.

To enhance delivery of 911 emergency services for area citizens, Chamblee has implemented the nationwide Smart911 service. This service enables residents to help first responders by providing them useful medical and personal information automatically when calling 911.

The cost for the service is covered by existing 911 fees on landline and cellphone bills, so there is no additional cost to residents. The system depends on residents signing up and adding their information to the database. To subscribe, visit [smart911.com](http://smart911.com).

#### Smart911

This private, secure service facilitates the Communication Center's call-handling and record-keeping functions. Citizens create a Smart911 Safety Profile for their household that includes any information they want 911 to have in the event of an emergency. When a call comes in from a Smart911 household, the profile information is immediately displayed so the call taker can expedite the proper response to the proper location.

When seconds count – at a time when you may be panicked, or unable to communi-



Calls answered in 2015:  
**34,946**

**97%** of Chamblee 911 calls are answered within ten seconds of the phone ringing. The national average is 90 percent.

#### Who Answers Your 911 Calls?



Catherine Powe,  
Supervisor



Casie Finney



Sekeitha Hines



Gudrun Hughes



Randy Hughes



Melissa Lentini



Jamar Patterson



Shannon Wight



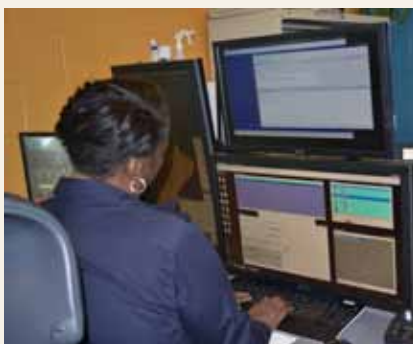
cate, or it could be unsafe to communicate – Smart911 ensures that the details needed by responders are immediately available even if you cannot verbally provide them.

Smart911 also allows the calls and other information to be sent directly to the laptop computers in patrol vehicles, allowing the officers in the field to have immediate access to all the information they need to respond quickly.

Visit [smart911.com](http://smart911.com) for additional information.

## Calling 911 from a Cellphone

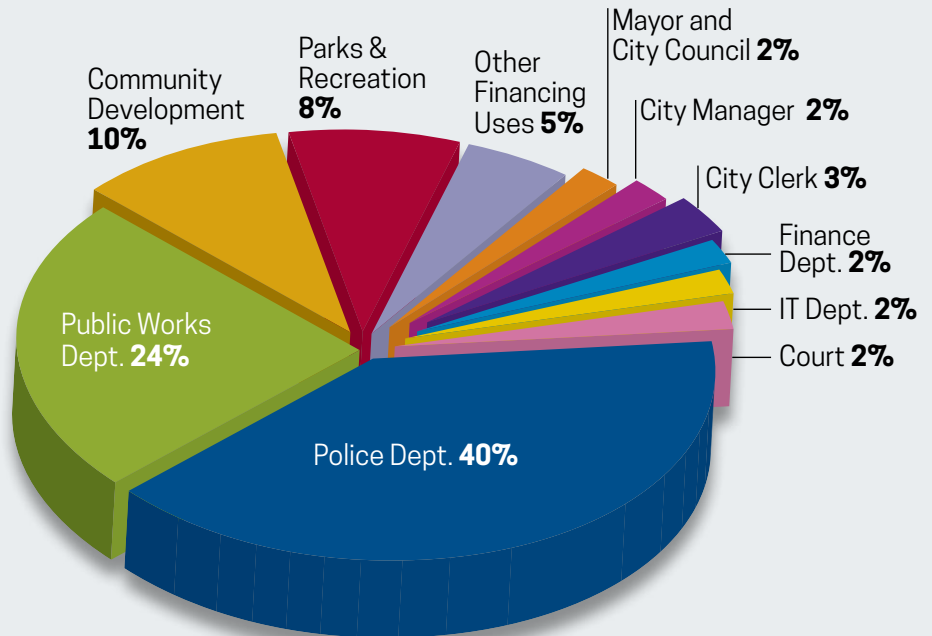
In an emergency situation, if you call 911 from a cellphone, you may not immediately get directed to the jurisdiction you are currently in. This is due to the placement of the closest cellphone tower. Currently, cellphone towers cannot map jurisdictional lines or direct calls based on their GPS coordinates. If your call is directed to the wrong jurisdiction let the operator know where you need to be transferred or simply provide your physical address at the time of the call. The 911 operator can transfer the call and the information to the right jurisdiction in a matter of seconds.



Brian Yi



Erica Zarifovic



## FY 2016 Budget Approved

In December the Chamblee City Council approved the fiscal year 2016 budget. The 2016 Budget was balanced for all funds and totals \$32,240,286, with total revenue for all city funds projected at \$24,925,810 and total expenditures at \$29,478,556.

The unaudited surplus for all funds at the end of 2015 is projected to be \$18,281,366.

The General Fund surplus is projected to be \$8,031,697. General Fund revenue is projected to be \$19,556,400 and expenditures are projected to be \$19,865,025. The General Fund expenditures exceed revenues and will require \$305,625 in fund balance to be appropriated.

The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund requires a transfer from the General Fund of \$175,303 to supplement its revenues and achieve a balanced budget. Likewise, the Emergency 911 Telephone Fund will require a transfer of \$625,478 from the General Fund to achieve a balanced budget.

Property tax estimates in this proposed budget are based on the 2015 tax rate of 6.4 mills. The property tax digest will be evaluated in May or June prior to officially setting the tax rate for 2016.

Included in this budget are 153 full-time positions, with a reduction of two non-sworn administrative positions in the police department.

The Development Department will continue to be outsourced to Jacobs Engineering. The contracted personnel provided was increased by one full-time equivalent (FTE) last July to 5.5 FTEs when the contract was renewed. The addition is another planner, which was determined to be necessary because of the significant increase in development activity.

Chamblee has assumed responsibility for road maintenance and traffic engineering – services previously provided by DeKalb County. Chamblee taxpayers will see a small decrease in their 2016 tax bills from the elimination of the assessment for this service by DeKalb County.

The appropriation for pavement resurfacing and maintenance is \$1,700,000. We will also select a contractor to provide traffic-engineering services to the city.

The appropriation as a starting point for adding new sidewalks is \$500,000.

## Wellness Fair Kicks Off Challenge

To kick off the Chamblee Wellness Challenge, Chamblee hosted a Wellness Fair in January highlighting the Chamblee businesses that offer wellness-related activities. Forty residents came out to meet with representatives from local wellness-focused organizations such as gyms, wellness centers, and nonprofits offering volunteer opportunities. Twenty residents signed up for the Chamblee Wellness Challenge and received 20 extra points for attending the fair. Fun activities included yoga and tai chi.



**Learn About the Chamblee Wellness Challenge on page 16.**

## P.R.I.D.E. Driving Class for Teens Returns

**6-8 p.m. • FREE!**  
**March 30, April 20, May 25, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26**

The Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E. (Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error) and the Chamblee Police Department offer a free two-hour course designed to help parents and their new teen drivers, ages 15-16. The program is designed to reach young drivers before they begin to develop bad habits behind the wheel. The goal is to teach them to drive responsibly to prevent the injuries and deaths that can occur from distracted driving and lack of experience.

Parents and teens receive facts and statistics, crash dynamics, and information on Georgia's Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA), including Joshua's Law. Parents also receive instructions and a take-home guide on supervised driving practice time, while teens engage in a roundtable discussion about risky behaviors.

Since the program first began, the city and police department have received positive feedback and praise from within the community. Residents of Chamblee as well as teens and parents from across Metro Atlanta have attended. If you would like to attend a class offered this year, register at [chambleega.gov](http://chambleega.gov).





# COPS CORNER

## 10 Internet Safety Tips for Kids

In this day and age, it's more important than ever to make sure kids stay safe on the Internet. The Internet is a great resource for finding information, but it's important to be aware of the potential dangers. When you are browsing the Internet, make sure your parents know what you are searching for.

Here are some safety tips to remember when using the Internet:

- Don't give anyone your password, name, address, the name of your school, or any information about your family.
- Don't talk to strangers on the Internet.
- Don't agree to meet anyone in person that you've met online.
- Don't fill in a profile that asks for your name and address.
- Don't visit a chat room without an adult's/parent's permission.
- Don't stay online if you see something you think your parents won't like.
- Don't post photos of yourself without your parents' permission.
- Don't download or install anything on your computer without your parents' permission.
- If you have any questions about something you read, ask your parent or guardian.
- If you are talking to someone online and they make you uncomfortable, remember you don't have to talk to them.

## Crime Prevention

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior. CPTED strategies rely upon influencing offender decisions that precede criminal acts.

Most implementations of CPTED occur solely within the urbanized, built environment. Specifically altering the physical design of the communities in which humans reside and congregate to deter criminal activity is the main goal of the CPTED organization. CPTED principles of design affect elements of the built environment ranging from the small-scale (such as the strategic use of shrubbery and other vegetation) to the overarching, including the building form of an entire urban neighborhood and the amount of opportunity for "eyes on the street."



## Chamblee PD Supports Special Olympics



The Chamblee Police Department has been a proud supporter of Special Olympics GA for more than 20 years. The nonprofit organization serves more than 26,702 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 120 counties. It provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults. Special Olympics GA offers participants continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

To raise money for Special Olympics GA, the Chamblee Police Department, 3518 Broad St., is selling Law Enforcement Torch Run merchandise. T-shirts are \$15 and hats are \$12. You can purchase a shirt from the records division on the first floor. The shirts are dry fit, 100 percent polyester, and range in size from small to 3XL. It only takes \$86 to send a special Olympic Athlete to one of the five Georgia Games.

The merchandise can be purchased at police headquarters Monday through Friday (except holidays), 8 a.m.-6 p.m. All monies go directly to Special Olympics GA. Thank you for your support!



In another effort to promote the Special Olympics, Chamblee officers participated in a polar plunge at Lake Lanier in February. This was a fun event and all the money raised went to support the athletes throughout our state.

For more information, contact Julie Shrader, jshrader@chambleega.gov, or 470-395-2479.



Sgt. Pearson and a group of Special Olympics athletes prepare for a workout at Crossfit No Excuses. Lt. Redmond from Gwinnett Police participated as well.

## Parks and Recreation Master Plan

**C**onsultants working with Chamblee have begun a 22-week process for developing a parks master plan for the city. Lose & Associates, founded in 1982, offers a full range of professional recreation design, landscape architectural, architectural, engineering, and land planning services. The company will seek public input throughout the project.

The process kicked off in late January when Lose & Associates met with city staff to review project goals and to schedule the first series of stakeholder interviews with elected officials, Recreation Advisory Committee members and senior Parks and

Recreation staff members. The stakeholder interviews were conducted in February.

In the weeks between the initial meeting and the stakeholder interviews, Lose & Associates conducted a survey of all Chamblee parks to gain a better understanding of the level of service, maintenance practices, and overall condition of park facilities. A steering committee of citizen representatives from larger citizen interest groups was also formed during the initial phase of the planning process.

To gauge public support and to fully understand Chamblee's recreational needs, Lose & Associates will facilitate an

initial public meeting to inform citizens of the planning process and to receive their input. The goal of the meeting will be to develop a list of needed facilities and programs. The meeting will also reflect the community's vision for parks within the overall scope of public services offered by the city.

In addition to public input meetings, Lose & Associates will work with city staff to develop innovative ways to gather public input through dynamic and fun events that encourage community participation. Check [chambleega.gov](http://chambleega.gov) for public meeting and event announcements.

## Take a Look at Chamblee's Dresden Park





# Chamblee Begins Rail-Trail Master Plan

Last summer, Chamblee was granted a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Supplemental Study Grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission. The study is currently underway and focusing on developing a conceptual design to extend the existing Chamblee Rail-Trail eastward from its current terminus behind Walmart for 0.90 miles to Chamblee-Dunwoody Way (see Rail-Trail Study Area Map, [chambleega.gov](http://chambleega.gov)). The trail will pass along existing easements of an abandoned rail line in close proximity to existing development. The study should be completed this summer and there will be several opportunities for the public to view work in progress and have input on the trail's design.

## Benefits

This project will achieve a number of community objectives, including:

- Facilitate transit-oriented development around the Chamblee MARTA Station. Redevelopment is already occurring at both ends of the existing Rail-Trail – proof that it can serve as a stimulus to development.
- Create a public amenity – a new city park at the junction of the Rail-Trail that will provide public recreation and enhance redevelopment of the adjacent MARTA tract.
- Improve water quality through development of a modern storm water management facility to meet current NPDES standards.
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity by converting an



abandoned rail corridor to a public amenity – a much-needed trail extension through the heart of downtown.

This study will build on the success of the previous LCI Studies in making Chamblee one of the best examples of transit-oriented development in the region. If you have questions, contact Jim Summerbell, deputy development director, 470-395-2335.

## New Members of RAC

Chamblee's Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) is made up of six Chamblee residents (may have up to two nonresidents). The RAC serves as a voice for the Chamblee Parks and Recreation staff, bringing in ideas from the community as well as disseminating information to the community.

Kelly Hughes and Ryan Florio were recently named to Chamblee's Recreation Advisory Committee.



## Parks and Recreation Staff Changes

In January, the city said goodbye to **Jennifer Rackley**, who served as Parks and Recreation director for the past year. Rackley left to spend more time at home with her family. **Chris Madden** is the department's interim director. He will supervise the staff and volunteers, manage the budget, and oversee special events. Madden has served as the city's program coordinator for the past year and has worked in recreation for the past five years.

**Ramiro Guzman Jr.** began with the city in January as a Parks Worker 1.



Interim Parks and Recreation Director Chris Madden with Jennifer Rackley



Ramiro Guzman

## Chamblee Greenway Kickoff Meeting Attracts a Good Turnout

**A**pproximately 50 area citizens attended the February kickoff meeting for the new Chamblee Greenway Committee. The committee's goal is to raise money and coordinate volunteers for the design and implementation of a Beltline-style pathway connecting the Peachtree Creek Greenway from Century Center to Dresden Park, Peachtree DeKalb Airport, and the Chamblee Rail-Trail in the Mid-city District.

"I was very encouraged by the turnout," said Thomas Hogan, organizer of the event and a member of the Chamblee City Council. "I think the group realizes this is a tremendous undertaking. There is a lot of passion for this topic and folks seem willing to put in some hard work in the months to come."

The Peachtree Creek Greenway is a proposed 12-mile pathway to run along the North Fork of Peachtree Creek from the



Atlanta Beltline to Gwinnett County. A full mile of the pathway will traverse the Century Center office park in Chamblee. The mission of the Peachtree Creek Greenway Board is to activate the pathway while offering encouragement, resources, and a partnership for groups dedicated to offshoots, like the Chamblee Greenway Committee.

The kickoff meeting included a presentation about the 12-mile Peachtree Creek Greenway from board member Sarah Kennedy and an overview of the proposed major development initiatives of Century Center from Jim Bacchetta, the principal representative in Atlanta for Highwoods Properties. The Century Center development includes the installation of one mile of the Greenway and suggests design elements that showcase the Greenway as a major asset of the new development.

"I think the group is very encouraged about the city's upcoming Parks and Recreation Master Planning meetings, scheduled for later this spring," Hogan said. "Integrating the committee's efforts with other related activities has been a priority expressed by just about everyone."

To learn more about the Chamblee Greenway Committee, visit [facebook.com/chambleegreenway](https://facebook.com/chambleegreenway).

## Chamblee, Doraville to Share \$96K for BuHi Plans

**T**he Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded \$96,000 to the cities of Chamblee and Doraville to supplement ongoing plans and develop processes for the revitalization of Buford Highway, addressing connectivity, affordable housing, and pedestrian safety. The money is part of \$800,000 in Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study grants to nine metro Atlanta communities.

The LCI study grants will help recipients develop plans and policies that support the creation of more vibrant, connected places. Once the studies are complete, these communities will become eligible for transportation funding to help implement their plans. ARC distributed \$12 million in transportation funds to area communities in February.

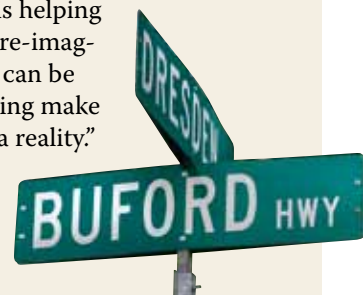
"Our board created LCI in 1999 to help communities across our region reinvent and improve themselves," said Kerry Armstrong, ARC chair. "Our local government partners have used these grants to devise strategies that improve livability by increasing walkability, encouraging healthier lifestyles and improving access to jobs and services."

Since 2000, 112 communities have received more than \$197 million in planning and implementation grants. LCI communities cover less than four percent of the region's land area but contain seven percent of its recent residential development, 29 percent of its recent commercial development and 69 percent of its recent office development.

The LCI program is funded with federal transportation dollars. The grants

provide 80 percent of funding for each study or transportation project, with the recipient making a 20 percent match.

"Communities all over the region are eager to revitalize their town centers and underutilized properties to create places that foster a vibrant, neighborhood feel and environment," said Doug Hooker, ARC executive director. "From established centers like Buckhead to bustling suburban downtowns like Jonesboro and Smyrna, LCI is helping communities re-imagine what they can be and then helping make those visions a reality."





## Run, Fun, and Food

# Join the Buford Highway International Half-Marathon May 14

A community fitness event presented by Sports DeKalb and organized by iWeLife



Marian Liou of We Love BuHi and Sean Pfister, iWeLife.

“Our goal is to create an event that will showcase one of the most unique areas of DeKalb County.”

— Event coordinator Sean Pfister

munity fitness and the amazing food of BuHi.”

Current charity partners include the Elaine Clark Center, Center for Pan Asian Community Services, and Hope Laugh Play. Interested charities serving DeKalb County can email [info@iwelife.com](mailto:info@iwelife.com) for more information.

iWeLife is an Atlanta-based fitness event company with a mission of creating events that matter while actively engaging partners through strategic planning, program production, and event promotion. Email [sean@iwelife.com](mailto:sean@iwelife.com), visit [buhihalf.com](http://buhihalf.com), or call 678-237-5434 for more information or to schedule an interview.

Experience the pho, the fun, and the run of the inaugural Buford Highway International Half-marathon, presented by Sports DeKalb. This new multi-course event, organized by fitness event pros iWeLife, promises to be a highlight of the Atlanta running year. Participants have the choice of a half-marathon course, a 10K, 5K or a 2-mile stroll, through the heart of the Buford Highway corridor. The post-race agenda includes tastings from BuHi kitchens, raffles, and other family-friendly activities.

The BuHi International Half-marathon begins at 7 a.m. and runs until 11:30 a.m.

with headquarters and starting line at Plaza Fiesta, 4166 Buford Hwy. Online registration, course maps, and event details are available at [buhihalf.com](http://buhihalf.com). Race entry fees range from \$53.74 (early bird half-marathon) to free (2-mile stroll).

“Our goal is to create an event that will showcase one of the most unique areas of DeKalb County,” says iWeLife Event Director Sean Pfister. “The course, the sponsors, and the restaurants touch Brookhaven, Chamblee, and Doraville. We are working with We Love BuHi and Sports DeKalb to create a positive economic impact and generate a lot of excitement about com-



Get Down and Dirty:

# Chamblee Fun Mud Run Obstacles Announced

8 a.m. ■ April 30

This year's Chamblee Fun Mud Run promises literally tons of mud, water, obstacles, and plenty of fun along the 5K course. "The run will include two muddy mud pits that will suck you in and spit you out," promises Marc Silverman, Chamblee Middle School parent and one of the obstacle coordinators. "But that's not all – you will climb walls, crawl under cargo netting, serpentine up and down a hill, run through tires and get wet, wet, wet from hoses and a DeKalb County fire truck."

The second annual Chamblee Fun Mud Run takes place on Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m., at Chamblee Middle School. Presented by Ed Voyles Automotive, the event is open to the community and is

Registration Dates and Fees	
March 1-31	
5K . . . . .	\$30
3K . . . . .	\$25
April 1-26	
5K . . . . .	\$35
3K . . . . .	\$30



ing the Chamblee Fun Mud Run, recommended for kids ages 5-7 who are accompanied by an adult. Participants will complete the mud obstacles, but will run a shorter course.

"The goal of the event is to raise \$50,000 for the Chamblee Middle School Education Foundation

recommended for children ages 8 and up, as well as older kids, teens, and adults of all abilities.

The 5K course winds through the Keswick Village and Sexton Woods neighborhoods as participants complete multiple obstacles that involve simple challenges in the mud. The 5K is a timed event. Participants receive a mud-and-water-proof ankle tag in their race bags.

There is a 3K (approximately 2 mile) Muddy Buddy race immediately follow-

(CMSEF) to directly benefit the students of CMS," said Amy Granelli, president of CMSEF. "Funds will be used to purchase computer carts, support the outdoor classroom, seed-fund the endowment, hire a development director to apply for grants, and in many other ways to address school and student needs."

For more information: [runsignup.com/race/ga/atlanta/chambleefunmudrun](http://runsignup.com/race/ga/atlanta/chambleefunmudrun) or [chambleefunmudrun.com](http://chambleefunmudrun.com).





# Huntley Hills Hosts Public Works Appreciation Dinner

In December, Huntley Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) sponsored a Meet 'n Greet appreciation breakfast for the public works staff. The guys were exceedingly grateful to be recognized for their role in making our little city a great place to live and work.



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## Chamblee Wellness Challenge Offers Many Ways to Earn Points

**G**et fit this year with the Chamblee Wellness Challenge. Earn prizes while working to improve yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. Participants can earn points through a variety of activities aimed at promoting wellness. The points will be used to determine winners in two divisions: adult and youth.

This year's challenge began with a Wellness Fair at the Chamblee Civic Center (see page 8). It will culminate in a Family Field Day at Keswick Park on April 23.

### EARNING POINTS

Participants can earn points through the following activities and will be contacted via email when new opportunities to earn points become available:

#### Family Field Day – April 23 at Keswick Park (see page 20 for details)

10 points for participating (sign in to earn points). Additional points may be earned during field day events.

#### Gym Membership

- Five points for proof of a monthly gym membership (may be submitted for February, March, and April for 15 possible points; submit proof of membership to earn points).
- Double points for enrolling if the gym is located within Chamblee's city limits.

#### Fitness Classes

- One point for any verified fitness class attended (submit proof of registration for points).
- Double points for enrolling in any fitness class offered by Chamblee Parks and Recreation.

#### Sports Registration

- 10 points for joining a sports league (school or recreational, submit proof of registration to earn points).
- 20 points if league is in Chamblee.



#### Organized Races

- 10 points for 5K or above (submit proof or registration to earn points).
- Double points for races in Chamblee.

#### Seminars through Chamblee

10 points for attending wellness seminars offered through the city (dates TBA, sign in to earn points).

#### Community Cleanups

10 points for participating in an organized community cleanup (submit cleanup details to earn points).

#### Career Day at Camp Chamblee – Multiple Dates in March TBA

10 points for participating in Camp Chamblee Career Day.

#### Other Ways to Earn Points

- Five points for proof of recycling bin (submit photo to earn points).
- Five points for proof of local library card (submit photo to earn points).
- 10 points for Chamblee 101 grads/new registrants.

#### Volunteering at a Nonprofit

- Five points (submit proof of registration or nonprofit contact for verification; may earn five points per month for volunteering February, March, and April)

### CONTEST GUIDELINES

#### Registration

Registration is free to anyone who would like to participate. Register online at [chambleega.gov/wellnessregistration](http://chambleega.gov/wellnessregistration).

#### Eligibility

The challenge is open to anyone who would like to participate. Participants do not have to live in Chamblee, but must compete in the correct age division. Anyone 18 years or older as of Jan. 30 must participate in the adult category. Anyone under 18 as of Jan. 30 must participate in the youth category.

#### Submitting Points

To receive credit for points, participants must submit a Wellness Point Sheet as well as the required type of verification based on



the activity completed. Participants are encouraged to submit Wellness Point Sheets as they accumulate points to allow standings to be updated regularly. All Wellness Point Sheets must be submitted by April 9 so that points earned throughout the challenge, as well as those earned at the Family Field Day on April 23, can be tallied and winners can be announced at the end of the Family Field Day. Points and verification items can be submitted at [chambleega.gov/wellnesspoints](http://chambleega.gov/wellnesspoints).

### Prizes

The Grand Prize winner in each age category will be determined by the number of points earned throughout the Chamblee Wellness Challenge, including points earned at the Family Field Day. Participants do not have to be present to win prizes; however, the final standings will include all points earned during the Family Field Day. The Grand Prize for the adult winner is a Fitbit and the Grand Prize for the youth winner is a GoPro.

There will be only one Grand Prize winner per age division. In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker will be determined at the conclusion of the Family Field Day. Additional prizes will be awarded throughout the Chamblee Wellness Challenge.

### Tracking Points

The City of Chamblee will release point totals monthly over the course of the challenge. These standings will reflect the points that have been submitted; however they may not include all points earned by participants if they have not submitted them via Wellness Point Sheets. All points earned must be submitted by April 9. Official standings will be released before Family Field Day, where more points can be earned and Grand Prize winners will be named.

### Alerts

For text or email alerts on any new ways to earn points and upcoming events, sign up for the Parks and Recreation-Adult Activities & Programs Newsflash at [chambleega.gov](http://chambleega.gov).

## AARP Safe Driving Course April 21

**A**ARP offers monthly driver safety courses for all ages. In this class you can learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, and new traffic laws and rules of the road. There are no tests to pass. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance (consult your insurance agent for details).



The next course will be held on Saturday, April 21, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Dr. Classes are \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members. Visit [aarp.org/drive](http://aarp.org/drive) for more information or call 770-986-5016.

## KCB: Mulch to Be Thankful For in 2016

**V**olunteers from Keep Chamblee Beautiful (KCB) partnered with Chamblee's Public Works Department to host the annual "Bring one for the Chipper" event and recycled more than 600 Christmas trees into reusable mulch.

Also in January, KCB hosted a party at Chamblee's Southbound restaurant in Downtown Chamblee. They revealed the design of their new Gold Star Award and presented the award to individuals who have helped promote the KCB mission of making Chamblee a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live, work, and play. Congratulations to Crystal Lein, Broc Fischer, Trey Benton, and Patti and David Lankford for being the first award recipients. Visit [keepchambleebeautiful.org](http://keepchambleebeautiful.org) and check out [facebook.com/keepchambleebeautiful](https://www.facebook.com/keepchambleebeautiful) to see photos of the event and read about the award winners.

KCB has lots of fun things planned for Georgia Cities Week in April, including a community cleanup, a beautification project, yard improvement contest, Chamblee Chicks 101 class, and an all new geocaching scavenger hunt.

Check out the website for details.



## Chamber Off to Roaring Start for 2016

**T**he Chamblee Chamber of Commerce closed out 2015 and headed into 2016 with many successes. We had a wonderful November Business After Hours meeting where we showcased Mitchell Davis and his team at Southern Design Works. The following week, we had our monthly breakfast meeting with speaker Vivian Price Saffold. She gave us a wonderful presentation on Chamblee's history and many surprising facts about our great city.

In December, we had our inaugural holiday luncheon with special guest Monica K. Pearson. She gave us an amazing presentation in which she entertained the crowd with some hilarious and poignant stories about her mother and her upbringing. She also shared stories about her renowned career as a local, regional, and national figure in

broadcast journalism. This event could not have been possible without the dedicated work of our Events Committee as well as our generous sponsors: Consignment Furniture Depot, Atlantic Aviation, and Signal 88 Security, and of course, the 120+ attendees who made the luncheon such a great success.

We kicked off 2016 with Business After Hours at Consignment Furniture Depot. More than 35 members and new faces had a great time networking and socializing among the amazing offerings of unique and beautiful furnishings.

Chamblee Mayor Eric Clarkson gave an update to more 60 members, business owners, and interested residents at our breakfast meeting on projects in and around Chamblee. These included the Chamblee Rail-Trail project, Joint Chamblee/MARTA LCI grant, and the broader North DeKalb Trail Connectivity Study.

Hosting our February Business After Hours, founding Chamber of Commerce member Southbound showed members and business professionals why they were chosen as "Best of Atlanta 2015!" With a beautiful facility, delicious food, and a great ambiance, Southbound is the preferred dining spot for many in and around Chamblee.

Tom Houck gave a wonderful speech at our breakfast meeting, giving us an inside look into what it was like to work beside Dr. Martin Luther King. He is currently retracing old routes with a new Civil Rights Tour where you can visit more than 20 sites.

We want to thank all our members, volunteers, and sponsors. The success we have achieved could not have been possible with all your help and support!

— Broc Fischer

*President, Chamblee Chamber of Commerce*



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## Haga solicitudes en la aplicación móvil

**E**l pasado noviembre, la ciudad de Chamblee presentó Chamblee Connect, una aplicación móvil que ayuda a los residentes a conectarse con los empleados de la ciudad. Los residentes pueden utilizar esta aplicación para obtener información de la ciudad y fechas de eventos, hacer solicitudes y ver otras solicitudes ya hechas. Puede también reportar cuestiones relacionadas con baches, falta de recolección de basura, animales muertos en el camino, grafiti y cortes de alumbrado público por medio de esta aplicación móvil.

Para ayudar a la ciudad a llegar a todos sus residentes, la aplicación es compatible con 17 idiomas a través de su función, "Una Voz." Cuando un residente envía una solicitud en su idioma, será traducida automáticamente en inglés para los funcionarios de la ciudad. Actualizaciones posteriores a la petición serán automáticamente traducidas al idioma nativo del residente para permitir un diálogo transparente entre el gobierno y los residentes.



**La Ciudad de Chamblee** está emocionada de conectarse con nuestros lectores de habla hispana por medio de esta página del boletín de noticias. Están sucediendo tantas cosas en la Ciudad de Chamblee y usted necesita saber!

## TipSoft

Si ve un crimen o tiene alguna información sobre un crimen, usted puede ANONIMAMENTE contactar a nuestro departamento de policía utilizando TipSoft. [tipsubmit.com/webtips.aspx?AgencyID=1164](https://tipsubmit.com/webtips.aspx?AgencyID=1164)

## Parque de Dresden

El Parque de Dresden es oficialmente un parque de Chamblee. Parques y Recreaciones de Chamblee están trabajando en un plan integral para todos los parques en la ciudad. Esperamos poder mejorar el parque de Dresden durante los próximos dos años. Si usted tiene ideas sobre lo que pudiéramos hacer con Dresden o cualquier otro parque en Chamblee, por favor contacte a Chris Madden: [cmadden@chambleega.gov](mailto:cmadden@chambleega.gov), 770-986-5016 para ser puesto(a) en una lista de discusión de grupo, para que su voz pueda ser escuchada.

## Día de campo para la familia ■ 23 de Abril

La ciudad de Chamblee será el anfitrión de un día de campo familiar el sábado 23 de Abril en el parque Keswick. Actividades incluirán tira y afloja, carreras de relevo y una variedad de desafíos para toda la familia.

Tarifas	Residentes de Chamblee	No Residentes
Menores de 6 años	\$60	\$90
Menores de 8	\$65	\$95
Menores de 10	\$70	\$100
Menores de 12	\$85	\$115

Tarifa incluye: Uniforme (pantalones cortos, calcetines y camisa) y trofeo de participación.

## Liga de Béisbol y Béisbol con Tee de bateo

Precio para residente - \$60

Para no residente - \$90

Tarifa incluye: Uniforme (pantalones cortos, calcetines y camisa) y trofeo de participación.

## Eventos en Plaza Fiesta

### Día del Niño - 24 de Abril, 2016

Plaza Fiesta da la bienvenida a todos los visitantes para celebrar este día tan especial ocultando huevos a lo largo de las tiendas y centro comercial. Este día, los niños iniciaran la búsqueda y encontrarán sorpresas en cada huevo.

## Actualización de desarrollos en Chamblee

-Tienda Whole Foods abrirá en Peachtree Boulevard

-Olmsted - Apartamentos y tiendas que abrirán frente a Wal-Mart

-Clínica Mercy Care será construida en la esquina de Peachtree Road y Chamblee Tucker

## Chamblee Summer Concert Series

**T**he Chamblee Summer Concert Series will return in May. In the past, concerts have been on the fourth Friday of each month, but for 2016 they are scheduled for the first. The official concert dates this year are Friday, May 6; Friday, June 3; Monday, July 4; and Friday, Aug 5.



### Save the Dates

FRIDAY **MAY 6**  
FRIDAY **JUNE 3**  
MONDAY **JULY 4**  
FRIDAY **AUGUST 5**



## Family Field Day April 23

Chamblee will host a Family Field Day at Keswick Park on Saturday, April 23. This event is the Georgia Cities Week finale, and will also mark the end of the Chamblee Wellness Challenge.

Family Field Day is the last chance to earn points for the Wellness Challenge. At the end of Field Day, all Wellness Points will be totaled and the grand prize winners in each age group will be crowned. Activities will include tug-o-war, relay races, and a variety of challenges for participants of all ages.



**MORE INFO  
ON PAGE 16**





# Calendar

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**MARCH** 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <b>PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY and SPECIAL ELECTION</b> <b>Architectural Review Board</b> , 7 pm, City Hall Conference Room <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6:30 pm, Community Building	<b>2</b> <b>Chamblee 101 begins</b> <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	<b>3</b> <b>Senior Breakfast Club</b> , 10 am, Civic Center <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center <b>Recreation Advisory Committee</b> , 7 pm, City Hall Conference Room	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Chamblee Chamber After Hours Meeting</b> , 5:30 pm, location TBD <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6:30 pm, Community Building	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>City Council Work Session</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Opening Day for Youth Sports</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, Civic Center <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6:30 pm, Community Building	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Meeting</b> , 7:30 am, Civic Center	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Compost and Electronics Recycling Day</b> , 8 am-noon, Public Works
<b>20</b> <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	<b>21</b> <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	<b>22</b> <b>Downtown Development Authority Meeting</b> , 6:30 pm, City Hall Conference Room <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6:30 pm, Community Building	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	<b>28</b> <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	<b>29</b> <b>Special Election Runoff</b> (if necessary) <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6:30 pm, Community Building	<b>30</b> <b>P.R.I.D.E. Driving Class</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	<b>31</b> <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center		



# Calendar

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**APRIL 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	4 <b>Spring Break Camp</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	5 <b>Spring Break Camp</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building <b>Architectural Review Board</b> , 7-9 pm, City Hall Conference Room	6 <b>Spring Break Camp</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	7 <b>Spring Break Camp</b> , 7:30 am, Community Bldg. <b>Senior Breakfast Club</b> , 10 am, Civic Center <b>Rec. Advisory Committee</b> , 7 pm, City Hall Conf. Room	8 <b>Spring Break Camp</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	9 <b>Wellness Challenge Deadline</b>
10 <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	11	12 <b>Chamblee Chamber Business After Hours Meeting</b> , 5:30 pm, location TBD <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6 pm, Community Building	13	14 <b>City Council Work Session/Chamblee 101 Graduation</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	15	16 <b>Compost and Electronics Recycling Day</b> , 8 am-noon, Public Works
17 <b>Kung Fu</b> , 7:30 am, Community Building	18 <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	19 <b>Kung Fu</b> , 6-7:30 pm, Community Building <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, Civic Center	20 <b>P.R.I.D.E. Driving Class</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	21 <b>Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Meeting</b> , 7:30 am, Civic Center <b>AARP Driving Course</b> , 9:30 am, Community Bldg. <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	22	23 <b>Family Field Day</b> , Keswick Park
24	25 <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	26 <b>Downtown Development Authority Mtg.</b> , 6:30 pm, City Hall Conference Room <b>Voter Registration Deadline for General Primary Election</b>	27	28 <b>Court</b> , 6 pm, Civic Center	29	30 <b>Chamblee Fun Mud Run</b> , 8 am, Chamblee Middle School





## Dine with the Dooleys

**R**etired UGA football coach Vince Dooley, wife Barbara, and daughter Suzanne, will be guest speaking at the Elaine Clark Center's luncheon Wednesday, April 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Capital City Club in Brookhaven. The ticketed event will include a jewelry silent auction.

Matthew Dooley, grandson of Vince and Barbara, has cerebral palsy and attended the Elaine Clark Center in the late 1990s. Matthew was about to age out of the program when his mother, Suzanne, stepped in and helped raise nearly \$100,000 to expand the Center's programming.

For more than 40 years the Elaine Clark Center has occupied a building in Chamblee and for the first time since its inception will begin a construction project to increase the size of the building which will enable the program to continue growing. The Elaine Clark Center serves children and young adults with special needs from six weeks to 22 years old. The mission is to enable children and young adults of all abilities to become confident and contributing citizens of the community.

For more information contact Christy Murray at cmurray@ecvc.org or by phone at 770-458-3251. Individual tickets, table sponsorships, and other sponsorship levels are available. Learn more at elaineclarkcenter.org

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